

REMARKS

Claims 18-36 are pending in this application, of which claims 22-33 have been withdrawn from consideration and claims 18 and 34 have been amended. No new claims have been added.

The Examiner has maintained from the previous Office Action all of the prior art rejections of claims 18-21 and 34-26 based on various combinations of Neumann et al., Wilson, APA and Longueville et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Neumann et al. discloses a completely shielded metallic connector block for use in multiple circuit modules of an electronic device. Electrical communication between the circuit boards is effected by an array of metallic pins, which run through the blocks. The metal of the blocks can be held at ground or at a constant potential to increase the shielding between pins 38 as well as maintaining voltage and ground planes at constant levels throughout the modules. The blocks are insulated from the pins and circuit boards by a non-conductive coating. In the preferred embodiment, the metal of the blocks is aluminum and the coating is a hardcoat anodizing.

The Examiner has urged that element 69 shown in FIG. 6 is a ground contact and that element 65 shown in FIG. 6 is a signal contact.

Applicants disagree. Element 69 is an "inner contact point" and element 65 is a "contact element", as discussed in the specification. It is clear from FIG. 1 and FIG. 6 that pins 38 meet in block 28 and the ends 42 of pins 38 contact the inner contact points 69 and contact elements 65, which line holes in block 28. In contrast, in the present invention the signal conductive-contact 15a and the ground conductive-contact 16 each includes a needle member 20 extending out of a hole in the holder base, as shown in FIG. 2, for example.

Accordingly, claims 18 and 34 have been amended to recite this distinction. Support for this proposed amendment may be found at paragraph [0047].

Furthermore, none of the cited references teaches, mentions or suggests an elastic member which applies a pressing force to the needle member to project the needle member outward from the second opening while allowing the needle member to freely move along an axial line of the second opening, the elastic member being configured to contact with an inner surface of the second opening by being compressed when the circuit configuration is connected to the conductive-contact holder, as disclosed in paragraphs [0046] – [0048] and [0052] of the specification.

Accordingly, claims 18 and 34 have been amended to recite these distinctions also.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

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Respectfully submitted,

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